

10 Cents

Bead by Bead



BRIEF
ROSARY MEDITATIONS

by T. Marion Will

ST. ANTHONY'S GUILD, PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

Bead by Bead

*Brief Meditations
arranged as a practical aid in
saying the Rosary*

by T. Marion Will



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BEAD by BEAD

A Primer of Rosary Meditation

“I confess that I am all too ready to give way to distraction.”

Imitation of Christ, Book III

“The beads are there for the sake of the prayers, and the prayers are there for the sake of the Mysteries.”

**Ward and Houselander,
*The Splendor of the Rosary***

“And how seldom am I entirely absorbed with You and free from distractions.”

Imitation of Christ, Book IV



FOREWORD

MAY we suggest that you keep this little primer of meditation open before you as you recite your Aves? Let your eyes and your mind pick up the short phrases one by one, as the beads slip through your fingers and the Hail Marys fall from your lips.

The booklet makes no pretense of offering a new method of praying the Rosary. The words, culled from Scripture, liturgy, Catholic poets and thinkers, have been arranged to help keep the errant mind on the central theme of each Mystery. Thus, as we read and pray, we find ourselves following closely the scenes of the great drama of Christ's life. New words that may fit themselves into the lines, new ideas on the deeper significance of the episodes, will mean, not distraction, but growth in our power of meditation.

In preparing for the recitation of the decades, let us try to say the

introductory prayers — the Creed, the Our Father, the three Hail Marys, and the Glory be to the Father — as though we had never said them before.

That the Rosary may form a chain of weekly meditation on the lives of our Lord and His Mother, it has long been the custom to recite certain groups of mysteries on each day of the week. Thus, the Joyful Mysteries are said on Monday and Thursday, the Sorrowful Mysteries on Tuesday and Friday, and the Glorious Mysteries on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

In October of 1917, on the occasion of her last appearance, Our Lady of Fatima gave the children a prayer to be said after each decade of the Rosary. Let us add our voices to the increasing chorus:

*O my Jesus, forgive
us our sins; save us from
the fire of hell and lead
all souls to Heaven, espe-
cially those who have
most need of Your
mercy. Amen.*

The Five

Joyful Mysteries



*White roses
in Our Lady's
crown*

The five Joyful Mysteries bring before me Christ, true God, true Man, coming into the world to teach me how to live. The hidden years of Nazareth are my model, whatever may be my state in life.



I. The Annunciation

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

Mary, Ever Blessed:

1. Golden thread of my Rosary.
2. Conceived immaculate, worthy to bring Christ into the world.
3. Adam's one perfect daughter.
4. Entrusted to the protection of Joseph.
5. Hailed "Full of Grace" by God's messenger Gabriel.
6. Chosen to be God's Mother.
7. Overshadowed by the Eternal Spirit of Love.
8. Elect handmaid of the Lord.
9. "You are all-fair, O Mary, and there is no stain in you."
10. With you we pray, "Be it done to me according to Thy word."

Glory be to the Father . . .

II. The Visitation

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

Mary, Virgin of Virgins:

1. Who humbly received the angel's message.
2. Who remained the chaste spouse of Joseph.
3. Who went in haste to help Elizabeth.
4. Who carried the unborn Redeemer to sanctify the unborn John.
5. Who received Elizabeth's sublime greeting.
6. Who replied with the supreme song of praise.
7. Whose soul magnifies the Lord.
8. Whose humility He has exalted.
9. Whom the Mighty One has favored.
10. Whom all generations shall call blessed.

Glory be to the Father . . .

III. The Nativity

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

Mary, Immaculate Mother:

1. Humbly silent until Joseph was reassured by the angel.
2. Journeying to Bethlehem to be numbered by Caesar's men.
3. Traveling a weary road on the day your Son was to be born.
4. Reaching a crowded inn that had no room for you.
5. Sheltering with God's lowly beasts in a cave.
6. Bringing forth the Word-Made-Flesh.
7. Laying the Savior of the World in a manger.
8. Hearing the angel tell the shepherds of His birth.
9. Kneeling with Joseph to adore Him.
10. Help us to learn from the Divine Humility.

Glory be to the Father . . .

IV. The Presentation

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

Mary, Cause of Our Joy:

1. Carrying the Gift of God to present Him to His Father.
2. Offering the sacrifice of the poor for a first-born son.
3. Meeting Simeon in the Temple, where he awaited the promised Messiah.
4. Allowing Simeon to take the Child in his arms.
5. Marveling at the old man's words of praise and prophecy:
6. "Now my eyes have seen Thy salvation. . . ."
7. Pondering his saying: "Thy own soul a sword shall pierce."
8. Rejoicing as Anna gave thanks to God for the Redeemer of Israel.
9. Performing all things according to the Law of God.
10. Lead us also to the House of God that we may know salvation.

Glory be to the Father . . .

V. The Finding in the Temple

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

Mary, Gate of Heaven:

1. Mothering the Divine Child as He grew to strong youth.
2. Sharing with Him, in your family life, the Wisdom of the Father.
3. Taking Him to Jerusalem for the Passover when He was twelve years old.
4. Letting Him assume His place among the men on this pilgrimage.
5. Startled to discover He was not in the returning caravan.
6. Grateful for Joseph's help as you sought Him together.
7. Filled with more than mortal sadness when you did not find Him.
8. Suffering for three days the loss of Him whom you knew to be God.
9. Finding Him in the Temple conversing with the doctors.

- 10. Teach us to remember that we too must be about our Father's business.**

Glory be to the Father . . .

The Five

Sorrowful Mysteries



*Red roses
in Our Lady's
crown*

“This is why I have come into the world.” During the hours of His agony, the God-Man holds His divinity at arm’s length, as it were. His humanity comes to the fore as He accepts physical torture and mental anguish. He is divine, and His divinity serves to intensify His suffering beyond our human comprehension.



I. The Agony in the Garden

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

Jesus, Son of Mary:

1. Leading Your disciples into the Garden of Gethsemani.
2. Submitting Your humanity to suffering of mind and body.
3. Falling to the ground under the weight of our iniquity.
4. Sweating drops of blood in the extreme of Your agony.
5. Pleading: "If it is possible, let this cup pass away from Me."
6. Praying also: "Yet not as I will, but as Thou willest."
7. Three times repeating this prayer of submission.
8. Finding Your disciples asleep while Your own soul was sad unto death.
9. Asking Peter: "Could you not watch one hour with Me?"
10. Help us to watch and pray that we enter not into temptation.

Glory be to the Father . . .

II. The Scourging at the Pillar

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

Jesus, Savior of Men:

1. Betrayed by the greed of one Apostle.
2. Denied by the cowardice of another.
3. Seized and bound by Pilate's cohort.
4. Silent before false witnesses and evil judges.
5. Adjured by the high priest: "Tell us whether Thou art the Christ, the Son of God."
6. Answering then: "Thou hast said it."
7. Sentenced by Pilate to be scourged, although he proclaimed You guiltless.
8. Stripped of Your garments and bound to a post.
9. Your sacred flesh torn by the metal-tipped thongs.
10. Acquainted with grief, as our transgressions were laid upon You.

Glory be to the Father . . .

III. The Crowning with Thorns

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

Jesus, Man of Sorrows:

1. Condemned, while the criminal Barabbas was freed.
2. Treated with contempt by Herod.
3. Stripped and arrayed in a scarlet cloak.
4. Crowned with a piercing circlet of thorns.
5. Invested with a reed for a scepter.
6. Mocked by men who knew not Your real Kingship.
7. Spat upon and struck.
8. Suffering every indignity at the hands of fools and sinners.
9. Silent as Your own people demanded Your crucifixion.
10. May we ever know You as our King!

Glory be to the Father . . .

IV. The Carrying of the Cross

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

Jesus, Victim for Sin:

1. Forced to carry Your cross to the hill of execution.
2. Faltering under the burden of the sins of the world.
3. Your lacerated body drained of endurance.
4. Your heart assailed when You saw Your Mother in the crowd.
5. Comforted by Veronica, who wiped Your face with a cloth.
6. Falling repeatedly along the bloody way.
7. Prodded to rise and move onward toward Golgotha.
8. Sharing Your suffering, and its blessings, with the Cyrenian.
9. Counseling us: "Do not weep for Me, but for yourselves."
10. Help us to take up our cross daily and follow You.

Glory be to the Father . . .

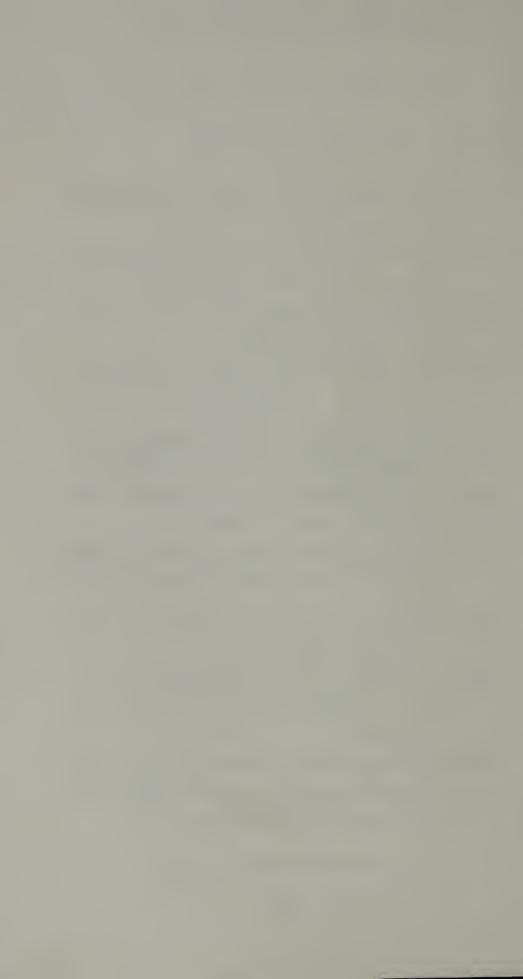
V. The Crucifixion

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

Jesus, Lamb of God:

1. Who were led to the slaughter and crucified on Calvary.
2. Who were lifted up on a cross, with a thief on either side.
3. Whose hands and feet were pierced with nails.
4. Who prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."
5. Who gave us Your Mother to be our Mother of Consolation.
6. Who burned in an agony of thirst for three hours.
7. Who in Your last words commended Your spirit to the Father.
8. Whose Sacred Heart was pierced with a lance.
9. Of whom the centurion testified: "Truly this was the Son of God!"
10. Who opened Paradise to the repentant thief, and to all who desire to follow You.

Glory be to the Father . . .



The Five

Glorious Mysteries



*Golden roses
in Our Lady's
crown*

As the Sorrowful Mysteries remind us of Christ's humanity, assumed for us, so the Glorious Mysteries remind us of His divinity. "God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son," that we might have everlasting life. Can we meditate on the Mysteries of our Rosary without catching some glimpse of the greatest mystery of all — God's love?



I. The Resurrection

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

Jesus, risen from the Tomb:

1. Whose enemies boasted of You,
“Himself He cannot save.”
2. Whose friends hurried to
anoint Your broken body.
3. Whose borrowed tomb stood
empty, the stone rolled away.
4. Whose guard of angels said:
“Why do you seek the living
One among the dead?”
5. “He is not here, but has risen.”
6. Who appeared first to Mary
Magdalene.
7. Whose grief-stricken disciples
heard the Magdalene’s story.
8. Who stood among the Eleven,
showing them Your wounds.
9. Who said to them: “It is I, do
not be afraid.”
10. Who rebuilt the temple of
Your body in three days, as
You had promised.

Glory be to the Father . . .

II. The Ascension

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

Jesus, Redeemer of the World:

1. Walking among Your chosen ones for forty days after Your resurrection.
2. Teaching them all the things in Scripture referring to Yourself.
3. Commanding Peter three times to shepherd Your flock.
4. Sending the Apostles to preach Your Gospel throughout the world.
5. Commanding them to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
6. Leading the way to Mount Olivet for one more testimony of Your divinity.
7. Lifting up Your wounded hands in blessing.
8. Rising above the hillside as the Apostles looked on in awe.
9. Entering into Heaven, to appear in the presence of the Father for our sake.

**10. Be with us, Lord, all days, even
to the consummation of the
world.**

Glory be to the Father . . .

III. The Descent of the Holy Spirit

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

Holy Spirit, Creator Blest:

1. Third Person of the Trinity, for whom the disciples waited.
2. Appearing as tongues of flame over those gathered in the Cenacle.
3. Comforter sent by the Father to abide with us forever.
4. Advocate promised by the Son.
5. Spirit of life, overshadowing the Virgin at the incarnation.
6. Spirit of holiness, sanctifying the Baptist in his mother's womb.
7. Spirit of love, descending in the form of a dove upon Jesus at His baptism.
8. Spirit of truth, sent to guide the Apostles in their mission.
9. Inspirer of Prophets and Saints.
10. Ruler and Preserver of the Church of Christ.

Glory be to the Father . . .

IV. The Assumption

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . .

Mary Most Powerful:

1. Mediatrix of Graces.
2. With your Son from His conception to His ascension.
3. By your obedience, opening the way for His incarnation.
4. By your care, nourishing His humanity.
5. By your purity, corresponding with His divinity.
6. Standing beneath the cross as He died for us.
7. Turning your tenderness toward us, at His request.
8. Continuing among His followers after His ascension.
9. Taken up, body and soul, to be with Him in Heaven.
10. The Vicars of Christ confirm our faith in your glorious Assumption.

Glory be to the Father . . .

V. The Crowning of the Blessed Virgin

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

Mary, Queen of Heaven:

1. Clothed with the sun, the moon at your feet.
2. Daughter, mother, spouse of the Blessed Trinity.
3. Privileged to echo God's own words: "Thou art my Son. This day have I begotten Thee."
4. Queen of angels and men, on whom your Son bestowed a diadem of stars.
5. Your glory is equaled only by your power of intercession.
6. Our Lady of Lourdes, heal our infirmities of soul and body.
7. Our weeping Mother of La Salette, lead us along Christ's way.
8. Our Lady of Fatima, help us to do penance.
9. Our Lady of the Rosary, teach us to pray.
10. Daily we join you as you sing: "My soul magnifies the Lord!"

Glory be to the Father . . .

HAIL, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us. And after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

